Volume 20 No. 7 November 2009

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Remembering the Centralia Tragedy

by Joshua Neuhouser

This month, the city of Centralia will re-examine the violent confrontation that took place on its streets ninety years ago, which ended the lives of four members of the American Legion and one member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Organized by Lewis County residents, the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, regional labor unions, the Evergreen Labor Center, staff and faculty from Centralia College, and rank-and-file union workers, the commemorations will include film screenings, speakers, roundtable discussions, and musical performances that explain the events of 1919 as well as their relevance today.

The best place to start in understanding the Centralia tragedy is with the statue commemorating the fallen Legionnaires. As the entire known history of some civilizations, such as the ancient Maya, has been deciphered from the inscriptions on their monuments, it is almost certain that if the events of 1919 are remembered a thousand years from now, this will be the primary source. The countless poorly selling books of labor history that offer a different story can't hope to compete with one mysterious sentence chiseled into a granite block in front of the public library. For the memorial brings up more questions than it answers, and along the base of the generic soldier statue, all that can be found are depictions of four soldiers, their names, the dates when they entered and left the world, an inspirational quote, and the following inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF:
BEN CASAGRANDA
WARREN O GRIMM
EARNEST DALE HUBBARD
ARHUR MCELFRESH
SLAIN ON THE STREETS OF
CENTRALIA,WASHINGTON
ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1919
WHILE ON PEACEFUL PARADE,
WEARING THE UNIFORM OF
THE COUNTRY THEY LOYALLY
AND FAITHFULY SERVED

A little bit more research will reveal that the Armistice Day parade organized by the American Legion was fired upon by members of the Industrial Workers of the World (also known as the IWW, or Wobblies), a radical labor union of questionable loyalty to the United States government. Advocating class warfare and industrial sabotage, the IWW had openly allied itself with the anarchist faction of the Mexican Revolution headed by the brothers Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon, and union members had fought in many of the revolution's border skirmishes. IWW organizers had come under suspicion of murder before, and many alleged that their pacifist stance during World War I arose not from deeply held anti-war beliefs, but from connections to the German High Command – connections for which history has not found one shred of evidence. And what this story leaves out was that five, not four, veterans were killed on November 11th.

There is also a mural overlooking the statue, on the side of a building where the violence of 1919 was planned. It tells a very different story. While the statue of the doughboy in front of the library is drab and anonymous, resembling every statue commemorating fallen soldiers in every public park, the mural commemorates its dead by portraying the resurrection of lynching victim Wesley Everest: his feet in the grave, both his hands raised fists, and his skin bright purple. His clothing is split down the middle: on his left side he wears the garb of a manual laborer, while his right he is clad in his army uniform. Along the bottom of the mural, prisons burn. Above, the 'sabotage kitty,' the Wobbly mascot that was illegal to display between 1919 and 1969, rains down from overcast skies, while a pie floats in the sky above Everest's head. The old Wobbly slogan of "Organization, Education, Emancipation" is written on an old-style timber saw that is held aloft by angels, but the text is in Spanish – reflecting the fact that both then and now, poorly paid and poorly treated immigrant laborers worked the forests surrounding Centralia, and the only thing that's changed is the country they come from and the language they speak.

Mural in Centralia commemorating the 1919 Centralia Tragedy. Photo by Marylea Coday.

At the time of the Centralia Tragedy, Lewis County was the largest timber production region in the world. Yet loggers were called "timber beasts" and were treated no better. Centralia's cemetery even contained a pauper's section that was devoted to loggers who had died on the job and could not be identified – some companies reported a casualty every week. The World War had increased demand for Northwest timber, and employers were determined to make as much money off the military boom as possible. Yet it was widely known that being a logger in the forests of Washington was more dangerous a job than going off to fight in France. Into this situation stepped the IWW, a union preaching the gospel of industrial democracy and which refused to compromise with the bosses over whether profits belong to the people who own the machinery or those who do the work. They had first gained influence in Western Washington during the Aberdeen Free Speech Fight of 1911, and organized a successful series of strikes in that town over the next several years. Over the next five years, the union would see tremendous growth, but the tide began to turn in 1916 with the Everett Massacre. In Everett, the Wobblies had attempted to unionize workers at the timber mills, but organizers from Seattle were repeatedly driven out of town by the sheriff. When union activists attempted to come into town on a commercial ferry, guns were set up on the docks and the ferry was fired upon as soon as it came within range, leaving somewhere between seven and fourteen men dead. The entry of the United States into the war the next year only escalated tensions between

At the time of the Centralia Tragedy, Lewis County was the largest timber production region in the world. Yet loggers were called "timber beasts" and were treated no better.

▸ **Centralia Tragedy,** continued on page 7

Patient Eight celebrate victory, dismissal on all charges pending

Press release

Since the anti-war demonstrations at the Port of Olympia in November 2007, a number of women have been defending themselves against misdemeanor charges in Thurston County District Court. The last eight defendants, known as the Patient Eight, celebrated victory today after the Gross Misdemeanor charge of Obstructing an Officer was dismissed, and the lesser charge of Attempted Disorderly Conduct was scheduled for dismissal on March 1. In late October 2008, a full year after the port protests, 25 women were singled out for prosecution by Thurston County Prosecutors. Since then, defendants and their attorneys have appeared in court more than 13 times over 11 months. While scaling back prosecutions of misdemeanors across the board, the cash-strapped prosecutor's office has doggedly continued to pursue these charges. At the hearing on Oct 30, presiding Judge Sam Myers commented, "everyone's anxious to get these matters over with."

The defendants, clad in black witches hats, circled prosecutor Jim Powers and successfully negotiated the court fees down to the unusually nominal amount of $50 and reduced the deferment time on the lesser charge to four months.

After the agreements were signed, the women took the opportunity to speak eloquently about their experience with the court and the integrity of the Women's Demonstration. Full transcripts can be found at OlyPMR.org. Patricia Imani and Kim Chaplin's statement read in part, "we are proud that we stood for peace. We are proud that we said 'No' as the war machine cycled through our public ports. We are not criminals, but those who upheld the highest international laws and the highest laws of humanity. We stand for Peace only."

This coven doesn't mess around! Photo by Noah Sochet.

Works In Progress

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

We value well-researched pieces that cover news stories that would be informative to readers in the South Sound. We value news and analysis over opinion pieces. We value submissions on stories that are misrepresented or ignored by mainstream media.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Colby Batts	Teresa Jennings
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Dave Campbell	hali panneton
Marylea Coday	Sandia Slaby
Mike Coday	Sylvia Smith
Renee Cruickshank	Jeff Sowers
Wally Cuddeford	Pat Tassoni
Christian DesMarets	Ryan Tompkins
Brendan Funtek	Scott Yoos

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

Cover photo courtesy of the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: November 27

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Carpool to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma

Join Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and Students for a Democratic Society for a Day of Action at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. The carpool leaves at Noon on Nov. 14 from the downtown Olympia Timberland Library and will return to Oly around 3:30-4 p.m..

Located on a Superfund site on the Tacoma tideflats, the NWDC is a prison which holds people awaiting hearings on immigration-related charges and/or potential deportation. Privately-owned and operated by The GEO Group Inc. (formerly Wackenhut), it can hold about 1,000 inmates; a 50% expansion will be completed by October 2009. The average stay of detainees is 33 days, but a significant minority remain locked up for months or even years. Some people detained in the NWDC were born here and/or are US citizens. A recent study by the Seattle University School of Law and OneAmerica reported that conditions at the Tacoma facility violate both international and domestic laws that grant detained immigrants the right to food, due process and humane treatment.

See "Rachel" at Olympia Film Festival

Monday, November 9, 6 p.m.
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue, downtown Olympia
For more information, call the festival office at (360) 754-6670, or email colleen@olympiafilmfestival.org

Gender Jam Festival starts in Olympia

November 20-22,
Procession Studio in downtown
(311 Capitol Way N.)

GenderJam is a not-for-profit radical community event. We recognize that we live in a society full of power imbalances along lines of race, class, gender, sex, sexuality, age, physical ability, size and other diverse identities. Though these differences can feel intimidating, we also affirm that we share common experience that inspires us to fight these norms. As we work towards ending sexism in our society, we feel it is essential to build community and experience each other in new ways, loving and supporting one another. GenderJam's intention is to build community and empower women, female-bodied or identified people, transfolk, queers, and genderqueer people. We hope to do this by sharing skills, listening to each other, performing for each other, working together, learning from one another, and affirming and lifting each other up. We hope to create spaces for dialogue, motivation and creativity, and to practice open communication and love for one another in the process.

We welcome the greater Olympia community to join with us in this effort. While the GenderJam festival itself will occupy just one weekend, our intention is to make it an annual event, and more importantly, to re-create our community to be as safe, inclusive and supportive as possible for people who are woman, female, genderqueer, and/or trans-identified. We hope to be a permanent visible, irrepressible and positive force now and in the future.

Additional GenderJam events will take place in other venues and homes in the downtown area.

Music includes performances by Kimya Dawson, Eleanor Murray, Foxdye, Aba Cole, Council of Lions, Cumulus, Witch Kromosomes, Femme Uke, Black Guns, Party Thighs, Little Swamp, Purple Rhinestone Eagle, Pet Dander, Mika Mae, Margy Pepper, Violet, Briana Marela and Blood Bones.

For more information about the Trans Day of Remembrance, please visit transgenderdor.org.

Register, Volunteer or Perform at Gender Jam! Find out how you can be a part of the action at: olyladiyfest.wordpress.com/

Seattle Plus+10 Week of Action

The Seattle+10 Organizing Committee is an ad-hoc group of activists and organizations that have come together to mobilize and inspire citizens and civil society to carry forward the lessons and energy of Seattle 1999, when we successfully shut-down the WTO.

We are coordinating a Week of Action (Nov 27 – Dec. 5) on the 10th anniversary of the WTO protests (November 30th) and in advance of the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen (opening on Dec. 7).

This is envisioned as a "big tent" week of events. It will be a time to highlight the connections between different progressive issues, and strengthen relationships between people working on those issues. The WTO protests famously brought together "Teamsters and Turtles." We hope to use the anniversary of that historic alliance to work together again.

This is also an opportunity to reach out to neighbors and educate them on the importance of organizing and activism. The Seattle protestors helped alter the course of global trade policy. Seattle+10 is a time to celebrate our victories, and reinforce the message that public engagement and grassroots resistance makes a real difference.

Participants in Seattle+10 organizing committee include the Community Alliance for Global Justice, the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, Yes! Magazine, Reclaim the Media, and many other interested groups and individuals.

For more information, seattleplus10.org or email info@seattleplus10.org

POWER's 2nd Annual Member Meeting and Board Elections

Saturday, November 7, 11-3 pm
POWER office, 701 Franklin Street SE in Olympia

Meet other POWER members, including our incredible board candidates. Vote in POWER's new Board of Directors and choose your favorite apple pie.

Bring a potluck dish for lunch and an apple pie if you'd like to compete.

Onsite childcare is provided. Please let us know if you are traveling from outside Olympia. Mileage reimbursement will be provided for drivers who offer carpooling to others in their area.

We encourage people to come in person if at all possible. We will not be able to have telephone conferencing. Only active POWER members may vote for board of directors. However, all are welcome to the annual member meeting and can participate in visioning POWER's future.

If you are an active member (have completed 20 hours of POWER activities in the last year) and are unable to make it to the annual meeting, you will be able to vote on our website for 2 weeks after November 7. Go to http://www.oly-wa.us/power/

We love to talk to our members. Contact the POWER office at 360-352-9716, toll free 866-343-9716, or go to welfarerights@riseup.net

Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Art POWER: Calling all artists!

November 28-29, Downtown Olympia

Show and sell your arts or crafts and raise money for POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights. POWER is a local organization of low-income parents and community members fighting for social and economic justice. Artists who participate may keep up to 50%

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

For more information, call (360) 352-9726, or email welfarerights@riseup.net

http://www.oly-wa.us/power/
http://www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parents-Organizing-for-Welfare-and-Economic-Rights/

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Putting the First Amendment on a leash

by Mike Coday

Jack Zeigler from General Administration (GA) announced that new rules regarding Capitol Campus use have been adopted and will go into effect on Dec 1, 2009. The public can view the new rules at website: http://www.ga.wa.gov/Rules/rules_adopted.htm.

The proposal of these new rules was met by much public comment and testimony critical of the new rules. A common view was that the proposed rules were simply incompatible with rights to assemble, engage in free speech, and seek redress of grievances, rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

GA proposed the rule changes, Trojan horse style, as a loosening of the rules regarding use of the various Capitol Campus grounds. The adopted rules include significant and insufficient changes from the proposed rules. With a tip of the hat to Drew Hendricks, here is a recap of the proposed rules and the changes made in the adopted rules:

Permit requirements clarified regarding number of people at an activity. The proposed rules would have required an applicant to get a permit whenever a free speech and assembly activity involved 25 or more people, regardless of location.

GA received many comments that this requirement was too restrictive for activities on campus grounds where ample space exists to accommodate large crowds. The adopted rules clarified the rule to provide two permit requirement thresholds for free speech and assembly activities:

Twenty-five or more people for activities inside buildings. 75 or more people for activities outside the buildings and on the grounds. Spontaneous gatherings need no permit GA received many comments noting that significant events or news may prompt a spontaneous gathering of individuals that cannot meet the two-day advance permit process. Such gatherings are a protected form of free speech and assembly.

GA has clarified the rule to provide guidance for spontaneous gatherings. *A permit is not necessary, but two hours advance notice is required for spontaneous gatherings, so that GA can manage any potential conflicts with other permitted activities.*

> GA proposed the rule changes as a loosening of the rules regarding use of the various Capitol Campus grounds. The adopted rules include significant and insufficient changes from those proposed.

Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines spontaneous in the following way:

Etymology: Late Latin *spontaneus,* from Latin *sponte* of one's free will, voluntarily

1: proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint
2: arising from a momentary impulse
3: controlled and directed internally : self-acting (spontaneous movement characteristic of living things)
4: produced without being planted or without human labor : indigenous
5: developing or occurring without apparent external influence, force, cause, or treatment
6: not apparently contrived or manipulated : *natural*
— spon·ta·ne·ous·ly *adverb*
— spon·ta·ne·ous·ness *noun*

synonyms *impulsive, instinctive, automatic, mechanical* mean acting or activated without deliberation. *spontaneous* implies lack of prompting and connotes naturalness (a *spontaneous* burst of applause). *impulsive* implies acting under stress of emotion or spirit of the moment (*impulsive* acts of violence). *instinctive* stresses action involving neither judgment nor will (blinking is an *instinctive* reaction). *automatic* implies action engaging neither the mind nor the emotions and connotes a predictable response (his denial was *automatic*). *mechanical* stresses the lifeless, often perfunctory character of the response (a *mechanical* teaching method).

GA has now adopted a new definition of spontaneous: arising from a momentary impulse and with two hours notice. Leave it to bureaucrats to make themselves look ridiculous.

Coday believes Gil-Scott Heron is correct that the revolution will not be televised, but it better give us two hours notice or there is going to be trouble.

Protest brings awareness to case of soldiers jailed at Fort Lewis

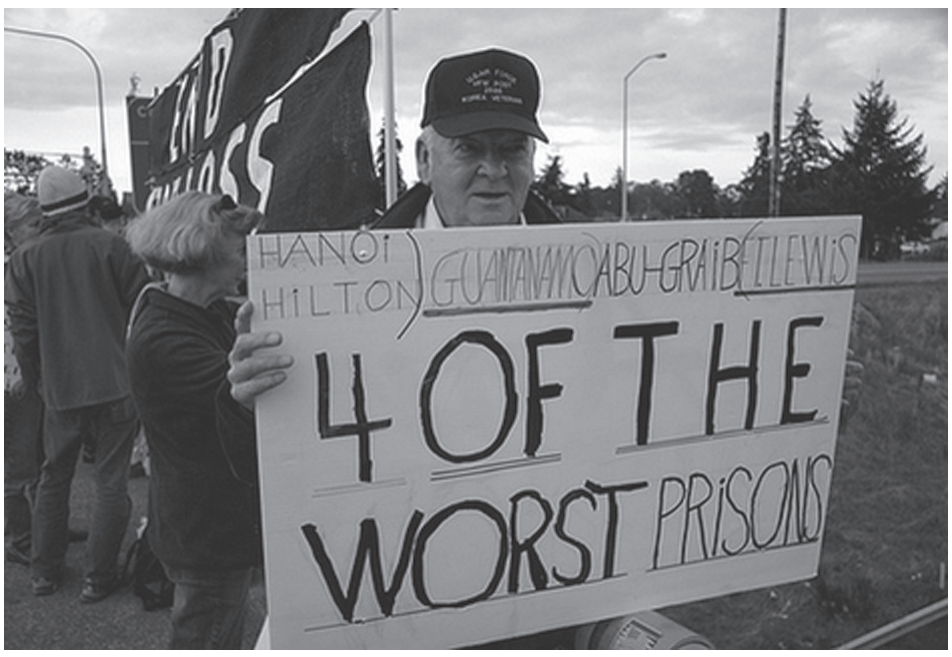


Photo by Berd Whitlock

Press releaser

On the afternoon of Sunday Oct 18, approximately 70 people congregated outside Fort Lewis in Tacoma to protest the treatment of two imprisoned soldiers, Travis Bishop (who is recognized by Amnesty International as a Prisoner of Conscience) and Leo Church. They allege that they have been abused and denied constitutional rights at the Fort Lewis brig.

The nearby pro-soldier/counter-war cafe Coffee Strong served as a meet-up point for protestors. According to Coffee Strong organizer Andrew VanDenBergh, a "proud graduate of the Evergreen State College" and former Marine who served in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Church and Bishop have been subjected to strip searches in areas that may have had video surveillance, been overtly watched by female guards while showering and using the toilet, and are unable to speak to their lawyer confidentially over the telephone. Such treatment is "definitely unusual," he said.

VanDenBergh cited previous allegations of abuse at the brig, which include Kevin Benderman and Michael Levitt. According to independent journalist Dahr Jamail, the latter was placed in a "'stress-chair' (with metal frames, but no seat) for 109 hours." "Obviously there's a history of inappropriate behavior," VanDenBergh added.

The pair's lawyers, James Branum and Legrand Jones, were also present. "We went public with the mistreatment of prisoners at the Ft. Lewis brig last week," Branum said. "For the most part, the brig command has chosen to respond with half-truths and justifications for practices that are un-American and unconstitutional."

A variety of personalities populated the overpass protest, with a wide range of ages and affiliations. Signs for "Veterans for Peace," which helped organize the protest, were prominent, and other flags and signs ran the gamut from simply supporting Church and Bishop to widely condemning the current US wars in the Middle East and national leaders. Many passing cars honked or gave thumbs up in support, although other drivers responded with thumbs down, middle fingers, or simply ignoring the protestors.

Police cars were nearby the scene during the protest, but their only interaction with protestors was asking one group to move their banner from the on-ramp shoulder to the sidewalk on the bridge. A KIRO 7 News van was also present, as well as a bus for MotorhomeDiaries.com.

The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

The Clinic has a new office space in downtown Olympia.

Our open hours are:

Tuesdays	**3 to 7 pm**
Wednesdays	**5 to 7 pm**
Thursdays	**3 to 7 pm**

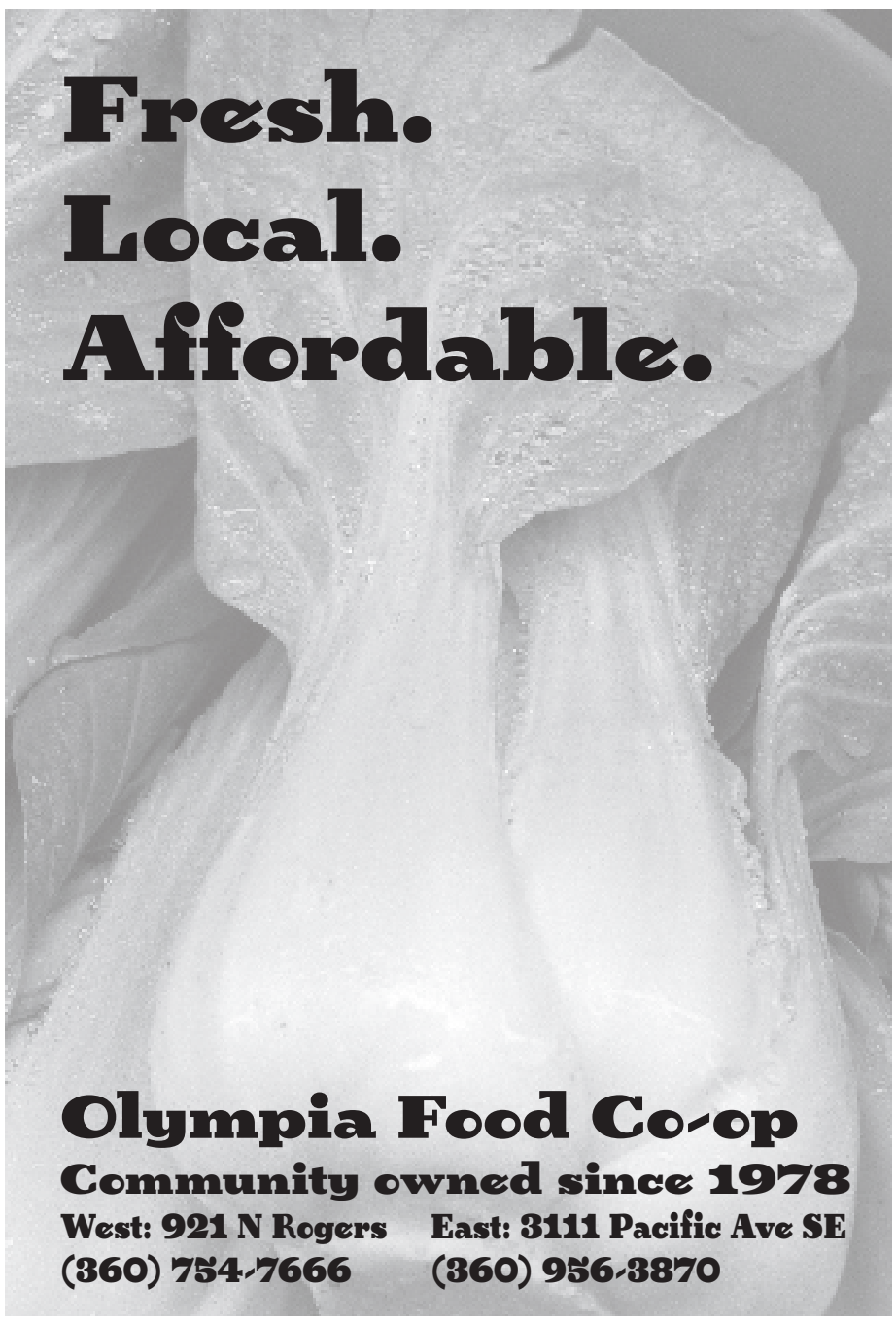
In the White Building on 4th Avenue (across from the Reef and above Last Word Books) in Room 212. The entrance is to the right of Last Word Books. Our office is up the stairs, down the hall, and to the right.

They are currently accepting applications for internships. Areas of focus include:

- Fundraising
- Donations and advertising
- Medicine
- Receptionist

Their wish list:

- Medicine-making supplies
- Clean, empty tincture bottles
- Organically cultivated or ethically wild-crafted herbs
- Books on herbal medicine, anatomy&physiology, herb/drug interactions, etc.



Peace Works 2009

Exploring the impact of injustice

Olympia-Rafah sister city delegate Serena Becker speaks at the 2009 Peace Works Conference in Olympia. The conference was sponsored by the Rachel Corrie Foundation and Break the Silence Mural Project. Photo by Donna Schumann.

by Patty Mosqueda and Cindy Corrie

Peace Works is an annual project of the Rachel Corrie Foundation that explores the impact of injustice on the social, economic, political, environmental, and spiritual aspects of people's lives.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, the Rachel Corrie Foundation and Break the Silence Mural Project co-sponsored Peace Works 2009, a day-long salute to those who work for peace through justice "*from hometown roots to global communities.*"

The conference event, "Art, Resistance and Solidarity: Creative Networking for Peace" was held at United Churches in downtown Olympia and featured informal networking, panel presentations, and theater and visual art experiences.

This year's events provided a day-long tribute to the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project and culminated in the official unveiling, dedication, and celebration of the mural in downtown Olympia. The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural was created over the course of the past two years on the Labor Temple building at the corner of State and Capitol Way.

This year's events provided a day-long tribute to the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project and culminated in the unveiling, dedication, and celebration of the mural.

Panel Discussions on Palestine

Panels facilitated by Therese Saliba, faculty at The Evergreen State College, and two recent delegations to Palestine shared stories and visual documentation of their experiences and observations.

Presenters Ras K'dee and Richard Castenada, of the Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine, were part of a group of eighteen native and Xicana youth from the U.S. who traveled to Israel and Palestine in August to connect with youth in the West Bank. The Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine is part of an ongoing, collective effort to connect the shared experiences of Indigenous Peoples across the world. The goal for youth from both the U.S. and Palestine was to learn first-hand from each other and to share tools and strategies of resistance, empowerment, and education against displacement and colonization. With oral and visual presentations, Mr. K'dee and Mr. Castenada powerfully highlighted parallels between the ongoing occupation of Palestine and the oppression of Indigenous Peoples in this country.

Five members of the Rachel Corrie Foundation Gaza Delegation reported back from their trip to Egypt and Gaza in September. The group gained entrance into Gaza on Sepember 16th through the Egyptian border at Rafah Crossing after being prevented from entering for 36 hours. Led by Cindy and Craig Corrie, the delegation was coordinated by Serena Becker from the Rachel Corrie Foundation and several on-the-ground coordinators from the Gaza Strip.

Craig Corrie reviewed the purposes of the delegation--to challenge the border closures and siege of Gaza, to be in solidarity with all Palestinians living under siege and occupation, and to respond to the Rachel Corrie Ramadan Football Tournament's invitation to participate in their month-long effort in Rafah to bring Palestinian youth together in sport.

Delegates Larry Mosqueda, Donna Schumann, Serena Becker, Cindy Corrie, and Ron Smith provided analysis of the situation on the ground. They discussed the role of culture and art in organizing and solidarity for Gaza, shared perspective on their interactions with youth and on the role of youth and grassroots organizing for Gaza, and presented messages from Palestinians, representatives of UNWRA, and international activists on the ground.

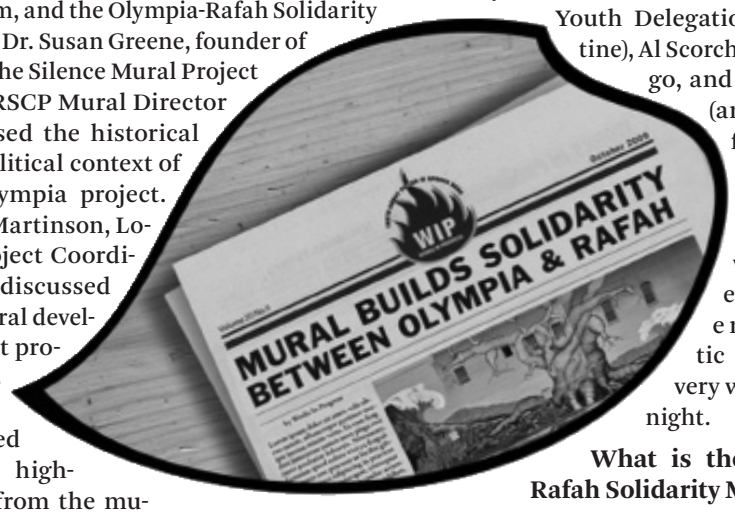
September 2009 Delegation to Gaza.

The delegation visited many Gaza sites devastated by Israeli military attacks last December and January and met with numerous individuals, families, and organizations who are resisting the ongoing siege of the Strip. The Corries reported that the biggest news was that "nearly nothing had changed" since their visit six months earlier with a Code Pink group.

The delegation's border delay prevented them from attending the championship game of the Rachel Corrie Memorial Ramadan Football Tournament at Unity Field in Yebna Camp (in Rafah near the Egyptian border). But delegation participants were special guests at the closing event of the tournament. The Corries presented medals to youth winners and the entire delegation joined tournament organizers for a celebratory Iftar dinner. John Harvey and Andrew Lyons of the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project, having joined Gaza organizers, were instrumental in galvanizing U.S. support for this two-year-old grassroots effort for the youth of Yebna and Palestinian unity.

Art, Activism and the Mural

Lori Blewett of the Evergreen State College facilitated a Peace Works panel on Art, Activism, and the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural. Dr. Susan Greene, founder of Break the Silence Mural Project and ORSCP Mural Director discussed the historical and political context of the Olympia project. Alicia Martinson, Local Project Coordinator, discussed the mural development process and provided film highlights from the mural's history. Artists relived the mural's journey over several years -- from initial idea to the growth of a giant olive tree – now with over 50 large, colorful, creative leaves--and more to come.



Eli Sterling of Earthbound Productions and Procession of the Species (host to the mural project) shared perspectives on artists as activists and their relationship to the community and the institutions of the community. Richard Castenada from the Indigenous Youth Delegation provided personal perspectives on exploring and expressing issues of identity through art and shared his own experience connecting with his people's history through his own creative work.

During conference breaks for Arabic coffee and sweets, participants discussed the value of art in progressive movements. Youth and adults collectively created message leaf banners to carry in an evening procession to the mural. Theater Squad of Seattle presented *Great Wall*, a work by writer, actor, director and activist Ed Mast. The short, interactive segment was performed by Mast and Juliana Meira DoValle with flute by Clovis De Milo.

Night-time Celebration at the Mural:

Peace Works Conference participants moved downtown for the evening where more than 100 community members endured the downpour of rain and proceeded through the streets to the mural – led by the vibrant drumming of local samba players. At the wall, lights and music filled the scene and illuminated the 100 feet of mural with the olive tree, its spectacular leaves, and the haunting backdrop of the apartheid wall—a representation of one that surrounds much of Palestine, separates Palestinians, and encroaches on Palestinian land. Mural team members Josh Elliot, Alicia Martinson, and Susan Greene hosted the celebration and presented the individual leaves. The mural was blessed by Tammy Sweem. Three bands--Audiopharmacy (with members of the Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine), Al Scorch from Chicago, and the Pasties (an Olympia favorite)--and Fire-dancers of Olympia warmed and enlivened an enthusiastic crowd on a very wet Olympia night.

What is the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural?

Located at the corner of State Street and Capitol Way in downtown Olympia, the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural is a one-of-a-kind project envisioned and directed by Dr. Susan Greene of San Francisco, working collaboratively with many Olympia community members and others over the course of several years. The project is co-produced by The Rachel Corrie Foundation (Olympia, WA) and Break the Silence Mural Project (San Francisco, CA) along with co-sponsors: The Middle East Children's Alliance (Berkeley, CA,) the Gaza Community Mental Health Program (Gaza City, Palestine), the Olympia Salvage Company and the International Trauma Treatment Program (both of Olympia, WA).

Four years in the making, the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural is the largest-known Palestine solidarity mural in the world. It is located on the north side of the Labor Temple building in downtown Olympia and covers a 35 x 100 foot wall. The mural's central image is of an olive tree that spans the full 100 feet of the building. For the past year, approximately 200 artists, activists and social justice organizations from Olympia to the Bay Area and across the USA to the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel have participated in the project, designing individual leaves for the olive tree. Each 6 x 4 foot leaf is an expression of a social justice issue. Collectively, the leaves articulate how the social and political struggles of Palestine and Israel connect to local, national, and international issues, including environmental justice, racism, colonialism, rights of indigenous people, and human rights. In its totality, the mural articulates cross-movement building and transcension of boundaries.

Several hundred small ceramic leaves designed by individuals in the local community (many school children) also adorn the lower border of the mural. Local ceramic artist Marion Pollmann and artist and activist Holly Graham coordinated creation of these leaves.

Future plans for the mural include audio and video files accessible by cell and iphone that will describe each image and add another dimension to the viewers' interaction with the mural.

The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural recognizes the relationship that exists between the people of Olympia, Washington, and the people of Rafah, Gaza in Occupied Palestine. It is an ever-present reminder of the thousands of lives lost in Gaza and elsewhere, and hopes to be an inspiration to those who carry on the quest for justice, unity and peace – as symbolized by the olive tree.

Both Peace Works and the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project are inspired by the life and work of Olympian Rachel Corrie, who was killed in 2003 in the Gaza Strip in a non-violent act of civil disobedience against the Israeli military. As a student at The Evergreen State College, she wrote, "I think it's important for people who oppose war and repression to speak about who we are as a community in addition to speaking about war and racism and injustice. We are not outside. I think it's important that human rights and resistance to oppression be included in the way we define ourselves as a community."

Immense thanks to the community of individuals, organizations, and artists who have helped to create the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural, and to all who made Peace Works 2009 a success!

Rachel Corrie Foundation - rachelcorriefoundation.org

Break the Silence Mural Project - breakthesilencearts.typepad.com

Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project - http://olympiarafahmural.org

What has become of Macedonia?

by Tom Lineham

Ten years ago, in 1999, news media carried dramatic scenes of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing from Kosovo as Serbian military and paramilitary forces swept into the area to establish control over the predominantly Moslem population. Most of these refugees fled to Macedonia. Later, NATO forced peace in Kosovo, the refugees returned and war crime trials followed. Kosovo declared independence last year. What became of Macedonia?

Macedonia is about one-sixth the size of Washington State with about one-third the population (2.1 million). There are two major religious/ethnic groups in the country. Orthodox Macedonians (primarily southern Slavs) make up approximately 64 percent of the population. Moslem Macedonians (primarily Albanians) make up approximately 33 percent of the population. In addition there are several smaller groups of Turks, Gypsies, Serbs, Vlachs.

Ancient Macedonia is mentioned in the Bible. It was part of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. The "Macedonian Question" led to the Balkan Wars prior to WWI. Part of the old historic Macedonia was included as a republic in the former Yugoslavia. Macedonians from Yugoslavia participated in the Greek Civil War following WWII.

Today Macedonia is something of a buffer state lying between its neighbors that have engaged in conflict over the area for centuries. Nonetheless, Macedonia is a thriving democracy with four strong major political parties, two each from the Moslem and Orthodox communities. After each election by consensus the majority party requests one of the other Moslem parties to join its government in the parliamentary democracy.

Unlike the US, Macedonia adopted national health care for all its citizens without complaint or bickering this summer. Yet its GDP ranks lowest in all of Europe except for recently independent Montenegro and perhaps Kosovo.

But if you ask any Orthodox Macedonian what the biggest problem facing the country is, they would say it is Greece, its powerful southern neighbor. The Greek government has a disconcerting and on-going interest in its northern provinces, where many ethnic Macedonians still live. Greece refuses to recognize the country's constitutional name, the Republic of Macedonia. Instead, Greece insists the country's name should remain the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (or FRYO) until negotiations produce a more acceptable name.

This almost incomprehensible disagreement has continued for over a decade with little hope of resolution. The consequence for Macedonia is that Greece promises to hold up Macedonia's admittance into the European Union and NATO. For a country with an unemployment rate over 30 percent this is a big deal.

In response, Macedonian nationalists link current events to the past. For instance, by naming the Skopje airport after Alexander the Great, the national government provided yet another unneeded snub to Greece. Alexander was born in Pella in modern Greece.

> Today Macedonia is something of a buffer state lying between its neighbors that have engaged in conflict over the area for centuries.

The Moslem-Macedonians could care less about the Alexander the Great symbol. They have their own national hero, Skendenberg, who dates from the Ottoman times. He is considered the George Washington of Albanians. Unfortunately, strong prejudices and abuses have mounted over time. Moslem Macedonians and Orthodox Macedonians occasionally clash, as occurred in August in Skopje after a football game.

Intercommunal communication appears minimal, especially on the local level with mixed populations. The idea of establishing local interfaith boards to assist in a better understanding of one another doesn't appear in the communal membrane.

Clearly what is tamping down the resentment level between groups is the knowledge that the global community is monitoring events closely. In the eyes of the Europeans the inter-ethnic strife does not help Macedonia's chances in its desire to join EU and NATO.

Nonetheless the Macedonians are stuck in their ingrained roles and relationships, and I see no one in the country that can lead them above their petty, historical prejudices and complaints. What they need is a leader of mixed backgrounds, who can be the bridge between these peoples.

But of course those very few who marry into the other faith are immediately ostracized if not physically assaulted (not unlike parts of the US in its early centuries). The creation of such a leader is a near impossibility at this point in the country's history.

While things seem somewhat quiescent here for now, one must remember Macedonia represented a regional powder keg in the not too distant past.

Tom Lineham is an Olympia resident, who since retiring has lived part-time in Ohrid, Macedonia. As a local volunteer, Lineham coordinates donations from American friends and family to purchase educational materials and chalkboards for local schools and youth groups. Most of the donations come from folks living in the Olympia area.

Above: Students at the Zivko Cingo School in Ohrid, Macedonia, show off a donated globe. Below left: School staff pose with a map, purchased with donations. Photos by Tom Lineham.

Election night

by Mike Coday

Voters cast their ballots on Tuesday and early results indicate that the people of Olympia and Thurston County want sensible growth, not rampant development. Candidates and elected officials who had been closely aligned with development were down in the early vote tabulation and the trend makes it clear that developers no longer own the keys to the City of Olympia.

In the Olympia City Council races, Stephen Buxbaum has a healthy lead over pro-development elected incumbent Jeff Kingsbury at WIP deadline (we are a monthly paper, so breaking news is not our thing). In the battle of the Karens to take over Karen Messmer's spot, Rogers had a slight edge over Veldheer. Jeanine Roe had a slight edge over pro-development appointed incumbent Joan Machlis and Joe Hyer enjoyed a healthy lead over pro-development candidate Tony Sermonti.

In an important race for sensible growth in the County, Karen Valenzuela had a ten point lead over pro-development candidate Pat Beeler for County Commissioner.

In a related story, the Triway folks recently proposed some changes to their Ritzy Glitzy Landing development on the Isthmus. If Triway had any thoughts that a more modest development proposal might help pro-development candidates in these elections, those hopes have now disappeared beneath a wave of voter disapproval.

It appears that the City of Olympia may be able to hold the line with only one mistake by the lake.

Congratulations to all who worked on this important election.

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Olympia, world demonstrate for climate action

by Mike Coday

Climate activists came out around Olympia and the world on October 24th to demonstrate for public policy change and greenhouse gas reduction to limit the catastrophic impacts of climate change. The science is increasingly clear that human activities are driving the accumulation of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The accumulating heat is on track to melt ice sheets around the planet, raising sea level and contributing to climate disasters around the world and it is happening on our watch.

On a beautiful day that encouraged all to step outside and appreciate the environment and the place where we live, groups biked and hiked on the Chehalis Western Trail to a rally at Bush Park in Lacey and several hundred lively souls marched, sang, and danced their way around the Blue Line (the Blue Line is the new shoreline with two feet of sea level rise) neighborhood of downtown Olympia ending with a rally dance event at the Fourth Avenue Bridge with music by the Artesian Rumble Orchestra.

Prominent environmentalist and author Bill McKibben called for October 24th to be a global day of action and demonstrations in support of the goal of reducing atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO_2) to no more than 350 parts per million. The planet's CO_2 level is currently at 387 parts per million and climbing. The evidence continues to accumulate supporting McKibben's contention that a stable global environment depends on levels of atmospheric CO_2 at no more than 350 ppm.

Olympia can expect a sea level rise of one to three feet by 2100 as warmer oceans expand and glaciers and ice sheets continue to melt. The estimates and projections for sea level rise have continued to grow larger as the impact of global warming has become more clear. The scientific projections regarding ice sheet and glacier melt have been consistently below the rates at that ice sheet and glacier melt have actually been occurring. A simple review of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will confirm these facts. The IPCC reports can be accessed at http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm.

There is a great deal that we can do to reduce global warming, but long term weather patterns are like freight trains. Once these large weather patterns are in motion, as they are today, warming the planet, it will take a very long time to slow the warming pattern. So, today, as the City of Olympia continues to plan and permit development in areas that are at risk from the expected sea level rise, the question that the City of Olympia needs to answer is, "Where is the seawall going to be?"

Mike Coday is a local small business owner and long time activist for peace and justice issues.

For more information on what you can do and to get involved with your neighbors who are already working on these problems, please consider the following groups:

Olympia Climate Action

Olympia Climate Action is working to reduce the Olympia area's carbon emissions to the national goal of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 by sponsoring community events and discussion groups, motivating residents to action and promoting a vision of a self-sufficient future. Next event: "Go Solar!" with Kirk Haffner of South Sound Solar. Nov 9, 7 p.m., MIXX 96 Meeting room, corner of State & Washington, Olympia. For more information, contact Barb Scavezze at 878-9901, or go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OlyClimateAction/

South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse

SPEECH publishes the South Sound Green Pages bi-monthly. Volunteer positions available! For more information, contact Janine Gates at 791-7736 or go to www.oly-wa.us/greenpages.

Transition Olympia

Transition Olympia is a group of people in Olympia (and surrounding areas) that is actively addressing the triple threat of Global Climate Change, Peak Oil, and Economic Contraction by catalyzing local community, sustainability, resilience, and human scale solutions. Our overarching goal is to plan for and create a system of community that will thrive when the world becomes a very different place. Next event: Nov 18. William Catton author of "Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change" at the MIXX 96 Meeting room, State & Washington, Olympia, 7 pm. For more information, contact Joanne Lee at 352-6224, or go to www.transition-olympia.com

Thurston Climate Action Team (T-CAT)

TCAT is currently collaborating with other community groups and institutions on three exciting programs to help reduce our County's carbon footprint: The Thurston Community Energy Efficiency Program, the Cool Thurston Campaign, and the South Sound Climate Action Series. For more information, go to www.oly-wa.us/ThurstonClimateAction

Cool Thurston Campaign

The Cool Thurston campaign, an offshoot of T-CAT, offers a way each of us can take action in the fight against climate change by working together to lower our own contributions to greenhouse gasses by forming EcoTeams and working David Gershon's workbook called "The Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Plan to Lose 5000 Pounds." For more information, contact Barb Scavezze at 878-9901, or go to www.coolthurstoncampaign.ning.com

South Sound Climate Action Series

The Thurston Climate Action Team partnered with The Evergreen State College to offer the South Puget Sound Climate Action Series at TESC. These symposia have brought elected officials, agency directors and staff, sustainability experts, activists, and stakeholder companies together to discuss critical issues involved with the climate change action agenda for Thurston County. For more information, go to www.evergreen.edu/sustainabilityclimateactionseries

Isthmus Project receives cosmetic changes

by Joshua Neuhouser

Triway Enterprises has it rough. It only wants to build high-end condos in a city where few people can afford them, and it only wants to build them right on the waterfront, so the not-so-wealthy citizens of Olympia have complained that they will lose their view of Budd Inlet. Other people have pointed out that the development will occur in an ecologically sensitive area. Challenges to the project have come from the Growth Management Hearings Board, the Department of Ecology Shoreline Master Program, and the grassroots organization Friends of the Waterfront. And so acting like any socially and environmentally responsible business should in this situation, Triway has reflected upon the anger directed against their proposed development and has incorporated many of the criticisms made by our fellow citizens into their revised project. For example, the number of condos that the two high rise buildings will house has been changed from 141 to ... 141. And while the proposed height of one building remains at 90 feet, its twin has been reduced a whole seven feet in height from 42 to 35.

> Bob Jacobs of Friends of the Waterfront feels that "the (revision of the) plan seems designed to get around some state shoreline regulations, but we think this is a clear violation of state laws."

Bob Jacobs of Friends of the Waterfront feels that "the (revision of the) plan seems designed to get around some state shoreline regulations, but we think this is a clear violation of state laws." He explains that if any portion of a building project is within 200 feet of the shoreline, every building in the project must comply with the law that limits waterfront buildings to 35 feet, not just the buildings closest to the water. Attorney Alan Miller, who is currently filing two legal challenges to the project, agrees with this assessment.

"The permit itself is dead on arrival," he says, citing the 1982 ruling Sato vs Olympia.

"We've known since 1982 that tall buildings like the 90 foot one can't be built on the waterfront...the law is clear, and the question of why they're even going through the process is, well..."

The Olympian's front page coverage of the revised proposal neglected to mention that even with the changes, Triway's project still stands on shaky legal ground. And while it is true that sometimes our city is a bit short on news – at Works in Progress, we're comfortable with putting out a paper every month, while The Olympian prefers to import news – even under these circumstances, giving the same amount of space to a change in seven feet that should be reserved for things like presidential elections is not only ridiculous but deceptive.

Within Olympia's progressive community, opposition to Triway's proposed building project on the Isthmus is as non-negotiable as a pro-choice stance or opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. After all, Triway has stated that the project is designed to act as a "catalyst" that will spur the creation of other "market rate housing" in downtown Olympia – in other words, that this is the first step in a process of gentrification. And so if Triway's market research is correct, the Isthmus project's success will make Fourth Avenue resemble Seattle's University Way in several years – completely unrecognizable to anyone who used to hang out there. Of course, it is likely that this won't happen. Downtown Olympia is so full of unoccupied storefronts and vacant office space that the commercial sections of the proposed mixed-use buildings will likely go unused – if no one can sell cheap commercial real estate, then why would anyone pay more to get it brand new? And so while Triway sees these buildings as the first steps towards a transformation of downtown into a yuppie playground, there is also a high likelihood that this project will simply provide some more construction jobs after the new City Hall gets finished, and we will find our old blight replaced with bright, new, shiny blight.

However, I am of two minds about this. One of the principles of capitalism is that people generally act in their rational self interest, and that this is generally good for society as a whole, but it is precisely the capitalists themselves who seem most intent on proving their own theory of human behavior wrong. Like paying airline pilots poverty wages or incest in royal families, many of the sites of condo developments are decisions that only make sense in the short term.

In Bellingham, for example, a controversial condo project has been suggested for the very toxic location of the old Georgia-Pacific factory. Meanwhile, Tacoma's yuppies are salivating for contaminated condominiums to be built on a Superfund site located on Pt. Defiance. It's hard for me to reconcile this behavior with any sort of rational self-interest, unless our nation's rich have simply internalized the messages on evolution and extraordinary human abilities from the recent trend of movies based on Marvel superheroes and decided that exposure to toxic waste will be good for their children. Triway's isthmus project, while not head-against-the-wall idiotic like the proposals in Bellingham and Tacoma, still forgets one important thing: thanks to global warming, the isthmus is predicted to be underwater by 2050. This points out the ridiculousness of the debate over whether to restore the original estuary downtown or preserve our artificial lake – unless a sea wall is built, an estuary is going to happen eventually. However, these facts are usually pointed out by the very same people who oppose condo developments even in the absence of environmental issues, simply because people tend to not like a bunch of rich assholes coming into the neighborhood they've lived in for years and acting like they own it. But it's a mistake to let class resentment get in the way of what may be good for Olympia in the long run, because there's certainly something to be said for concentrating all of our city's rich assholes in one place if that place will also soon be underwater. And in that spirit, I would like to ask Triway to hurry up and build the damn thing!

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▸ **Centralia,** continued from page 1.

the explicitly anti-war union and its enemies. That summer, federal troops were ordered to Yakima, Wenatchee, Ellensburg, and Cle Elum in order to suppress an IWW organizing drive among agricultural laborers. Several months later, the IWW hall in Aberdeen was attacked by a group of vigilantes calling themselves the Black Robes. "Remember the boys in France," they warned. "Feathers are light and tar is cheap." Many bodies of union men were found hanging from trees the following year, their deaths ruled suicides.

In Centralia, the situation was no better. The first IWW hall had been sacked soon after opening in 1918, and the office furniture seized by the mob was auctioned off on the spot. Vigilantes also made a sport out of tormenting Tom Lassiter, a middle aged Wobbly who was left partially blind from an industrial accident and who made his living from selling newspapers on the street. In June of 1919, he saw his newsstand raided, his clothing and stock of papers burned, and was left with a threatening note that ordered "You leave town in 24 hours," that was signed "U.S. Returned Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines of Centralia, Wash." After announcing his intention to stay in town "as long as I damn please" he was kidnapped under the supervision of local police officers and, in what was becoming the ritual interaction between veterans and union men, dumped on the far side of the county line.

The union still had a great deal of support from Centralia's working class despite all this, and the conservatives looked for a charismatic leader. They would find one in Warren O. Grimm. The local American Legion commander had not served on the western front like most of his comrades, but instead in the American Expeditionary Force to the Russian port of Vladivostok in an abortive attempt by the Allies to overthrow the new communist government. His experiences in the now forgotten Siberian war had instilled in him as rabid a hatred of socialism as the average 'teabagger' today, and with as great an imagination as to what constitutes socialism. Grimm made speeches, for example, about the "nationalization of women" in Russia, implying that a similar fate was in store for the wives of Centralia if the Wobblies – or as he preferred to call them, the American Bolsheviki – were not dealt with. When a local lawyer confronted him about his vision of "Americanism" where freedom was strangely absent, pointing to the deplorable treatment of Tom Lassiter as an example, Grimm replied that "that's the proper way to treat such a fellow." On October 19th, he was elected to what was referred to as the "Secret Committee." The Committee was created at a meeting of the town's employers that had been convened by a local newspaper, and for the next month, its purpose was the subject of much rumor. A lawyer recommended to the IWW that they prepare to defend themselves and their property, with arms if necessary.

When the American Legion organized a march on Armistice Day, it was an open secret that it would end with a raid on the IWW hall – many of the marchers were armed, others carried rope. Wobblies had gone door-to-door in Centralia in order to warn their fellow citizens about the outrage that everyone knew was coming, and appealing for volunteers to help them defend the hall. Some IWW members, who had barricaded themselves into the hall, were also armed – "I fought for democracy in France and I'm going to fight for it here," declared veteran and union organizer Wesley Everest. That day paraders surrounded the hall, and after a cry of "Let's go at 'em, boys!" they charged, tearing the door from its hinges. And then the men at the front of the mob were shot in what can only be described as self-defense. Others pursued Wesley Everest, who had fled from the mob. After his capture, he was dragged through town, beaten half to death, and thrown in jail along with the eight other Wobblies who had been arrested. That evening at 7:30, the town's electricity was cut off. Members of the Secret Committee dragged Wesley Everest from his jail cell under cover of darkness, castrated him, hung him from a bridge, and riddled his corpse with bullets. His body was later retrieved and given a cell. After two days of living with a dead man, the live Wobblies were forced at gunpoint to dig Everest's grave. And the county coroner would later joke that "Everest broke out of jail, went to the Chehalis River bridge, and jumped off with a rope around his neck. Finding the rope too short, he fastened on another one, jumped off again, broke his neck, and then shot himself full of holes."

During the trial that followed, any witness who testified that Grimm had led a raid on the union hall before the shooting began was arrested for perjury as they left the courtroom. Eight men were convicted of Grimm's murder and received sentences between 25 and 40 years, even though only two years after the trial, many jurors came forward and spoke of the political pressure and intimidation that coerced them into delivering a guilty verdict. No one was ever arrested or even investigated for the lynching of Wesley Everest. And there are rumors, never confirmed, that he was not the only union man lynched that night. The bodies of John Joe Davis and Ole Hanson were never found, but never were they found alive, either.

During the trial that followed, any witness who testified that Grimm had led a raid on the union hall before the shooting began was arrested for perjury as they left the courtroom.

The Centralia Tragedy was one of the pivotal events that led to the collapse of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1924. Attacks against the union organized at the local level were accompanied by government seizure of the union's records in a series of raids organized by J. Edgar Hoover and the Bureau of Investigation. At the same time, Bolshevik agents attempted to use the IWW for its own ends and integrate it into the newly formed Communist Party USA. And though the union was able to remain autonomous and democratically organized, it paid the price with a loss of influence that it has never been able to recover. But this was only part of a general rightward lurch in the U.S. 1919 also saw the worst race riots in our nation's history, and the rise of right-wing vigilantism that began with unions in its crosshairs would soon culminate in the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

It has been 90 years since these events took place. The usual narrative about the labor wars of the late 1910s and early 1920s is that they represented an older, more ruthless period of U.S. capitalism, and that the poverty and violence of those years was put behind us by the policies of the New Deal. This was largely true for the country as a whole. But the resource extraction regions of the country – like the Northwest timberland and the Appalachian and Rocky Mountain mining districts, which were precisely where the labor violence of those years was centered – saw little change. And what had been gained was destroyed years ago through the introduction of free trade agreements. On any average day in downtown Olympia, you can see the effects of this first hand. Down Plum Street, truck after truck carries raw logs from our forests to the port, wood destined for export that decades ago would have been destined to local manufacturers. Due to a lack of jobs, the timberland has depopulated drastically. And so the old economic system of the Northwest, which before could only be kept operating through the use of terror, has now been abandoned. A new system is in place, and if we close our eyes to what goes on in our state we can pretend that the atrocities of 90 years ago are no longer with us.

Because Centralia is not unique. The map of Washington is inscribed with violence, and the period around World War I, when the class war in our state threatened to become terrifyingly literal, contained skirmishes that ranged from Everett to Aberdeen to Wenatchee. This chapter in our history is then bookended on one side by the ethnic cleansing campaigns of the late 19th century that turned the early mestizo cities of the Northwest (for a time) lily white, and on the other by our current status as exporters of violence, with the entire economies of some towns centered around war, whether it be in the production of planes (south King County), nuclear weapons (the Tri-Cities), or IED fodder

Friday November 13 - Corbet Theater, Centralia College

7:00 – 9:30 pm - The Centralia Tragedy long remained a painful event that Centralia community members were reluctant to discuss. This began to change in 1997 with the painting of a mural, "The Resurrection of Wesley Everest," on the side of a former Elks Lodge. The making of the mural is the subject of "Lewis County: Hope and Struggle," which also examines what took place in 1919 and interviews community residents about economic changes that have occurred over time in Lewis County.

The screening will be preceded by a musical performance by folk legend Mark Ross, a film trailer, The Forgotten: Armistice Day 1919, and followed by a discussion.

Saturday November 14 (Saturday events are at Washington Hall, Centralia College)

9:30 am - 10:00 am: Events resume with a musical performance by Brendan Phillips. A panel presentation and workshops will focus on what happened in 1919 and why the Tragedy is relevant to today's labor and workplace issues.

1:30-3:30 pm: During the walking tour we will visit sites related to the Centralia Tragedy. These sites include the 1997 mural ("The Resurrection of Wesley Everest"); the Sentinel statue and other markers in Centralia's downtown park; the old Elks Lodge where the Legionnaires planned their parade; the old city hall, site of the former jail; the Rainier Grand Hotel, where there will be historical displays, women in vintage costume, and refreshments; and the office of Elmer Smith, the attorney who was counsel to the IWW.

For more information on the commemorations, contact Peter Kardas at 360-867-6526; kardasp@evergreen.edu

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Olympia, Washington -- October 7, 2009 -- On the eighth year anniversary of the US-led invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, a large and spirited crowd gathered to rally and march in protest against the war, and to cheer for peace and justice. Photo by Berd Whitlock

Works In Progress
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